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FRANK L. HOOFS.....MANAGER
SATURDAY.....SEPTEMBER 8, 1906

Conferences For Negro Farmers

One of the influences and institutions which has been set at work through the influence of the Hampton Institute and the activity of Booker Washington, and other men and institutions of like sort, are Farmers' Conferences for Negroes in various parts of the south. The second annual conference of this sort in Lawrenceville, Va., was lately held in St. Paul's church. It gave much evidence of a progressive movement among the Negroes. The attendance throughout quite doubled that at the first conference. Fully 15,000 people listened to the speeches, and as the audience was constantly changing there must have been at least 2,000 in attendance at one time or another. Every section of the county was represented, and the interest manifested was unflagging. The reports presented were encouraging in every way. It appeared that in the five magisterial districts of Brunswick county the proportion of Negroes owning their homes varied from one-quarter to three-quarters, and the farms, as a rule, were wholly or almost free from debt. In one case a solid block of five miles was owned entirely by Negroes, one of whom had bought and paid for over 1,000 acres since the Civil War, and now owned 556 acres. In answer to a question by Bishop Strange, it was said that the ownership of land tended to make Negroes responsible and law-abiding, while those who owned nothing were, as might have been expected, irresponsible, careless and shiftless. Much interest was manifested in lengthening the school term by local taxation. There was a general agreement that the moral tone of the Negroes had improved, and that the young men in particular were getting more industrious and showing a greater tendency to purchase homes and settle down, especially where, through prohibition, the temptation of liquor was removed. The discussion of what steps should be taken to control the criminal tendency in the race aroused much interest. It was explained that in some cases officers of the law were few and far between. Some argued that citizens should organize for self help in securing and confining offenders until officers could be reached. The Conference felt very sure that something must be done to prevent the escape of criminals. Bishop Strange, whose opinion was asked, said he thought this a social duty and that they were putting themselves in the right attitude. His sentiments were heartily cheered.

Proposed Cure For Anarchism

Secretary Bonaparte's proposed remedy for anarchism—rigorous imprisonment with complete seclusion, supplemented by the lash—might be more hopefully considered if it were new. This course of treatment, however, has been exhaustively tested in countries where the facilities for applying it are much greater than with us, and the results have been discouraging. In Russia, where the disease is particularly virulent, the treatment described by Mr. Bonaparte has had a long and complete trial. The rigor of Russian imprisonment is proverbial; whipping is a well-recognized form of discipline; yet, in spite of all, anarchy has overspread the country. The Russian mistake was in trying to suppress the disease without changing the conditions which produced it. Such conditions do not exist with us, and anarchism has not here the excuse of necessity. Government is not, as in Russia, synonymous with tyranny, and hostility to all government is not, as there, a logical expression of revolt, logically to be suppressed with a strong arm. Anarchism, in this country, is a wrong way of thinking, as Mr. Bonaparte very clearly explains. But nothing is more certain than that wrong thinking cannot be cured by imprisonment or the lash. For the overt crimes of anarchists our criminal law is adequate. For the false philosophy that prompts such crimes, we must look elsewhere for an antidote. Our jails are not adequate to imprison all the crack-brained, imported or native. As to flogging them into right reason, that form of mental discipline is not upheld by the experience of ages. Perhaps some of the new ideas in cranial surgery might fit an occasional case, but in general we shall probably have to rely still upon the saving virtue of American common sense.

Censored Press Of Little Worth

Jamaica has had an earthquake, and Indiana has had one. Scarcely a day passes but the cable brings news of an earthquake somewhere, and there is probably not a day passes that does not have one or more earthquakes somewhere. If the theory of those despotic souls is correct, who would have no mention made of any earthquake in Hawaii, because of their claim that if people hear there is an earthquake here no one will come to the islands, the same theory ought to hold good as to other places from which reports of earthquakes come. In that case it won't be long before there will be no place on earth where people will go. Everybody will remain right where they are and the railroads and the steamship companies will have to go out of the passenger business. Of course, the theory is absurd. Tourist movement and travel are determined by no such trivial things as this. But if the theory were correct the mere suppression of all statement regarding earthquakes in Hawaii by the local papers, would be useless, because news of the fact would travel to the world in other ways/by private letters, by the report and word of mouth of mariners and chance visitors—all of them gaining an adventitious authority by being coupled with the statement, that "the island papers don't say a word about the earthquakes for fear of hurting the country."

A muzzled or a censored press never did any country any good.

Sunday Trading Frowned Upon

Following close on the action in France comes the report of a joint committee of the British Parliament on Sunday trading. Sunday rest, the committee finds, is important, not on religious and moral grounds alone, but for the well-being of the community. It therefore recommends that every shop assistant be assured of one day's rest in seven, and that penalties be exacted from every employer refusing to grant it, but that the total prohibition of Sunday trading on the part of coster-mongers, street hawkers, and small shop-keepers not employing assistants of any kind would inflict inconvenience and hardship on considerable masses of the poorer classes. Some exemptions would therefore be necessary. The exigencies of modern life made it desirable to permit in particular districts the sale of certain articles for a part or the whole of Sunday.

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Special regulations should be framed by local authorities, under proper control. For offenders the committee recommend a system of fines, reaching \$25 for the third and all subsequent offences. Special exemption are recommended in the case of mineral waters, sweets, tobacco, and daily provisions.

The General O'Reilly who has been appointed Surgeon General of the army is not the Mr. O'Reilly who kept the hotel. He is the Mr. O'Reilly who kept the hospital.

The staff of salvers, wreckers and lawyers, employed by the Pacific Mail Company seem to be making pretty good headway with the Manchuria.

Wonder of Joe Cohen will bring back any of those gorgeous thirty-two sheet posters of the band with him? If he does they might make pleasing souvenirs for the members of the angel club that was to share in the profits of the tour.

Judge De Bolt's charge to the grand jury might easily be made over into two tracts: one for the W. C. T. U. out of that part of the charge devoted to the evils of drinking, and another for the Civic Federation out of that part devoted to the evils of gambling.

It will be noticed that the Board of supervisors does not give very enthusiastic encouragement to Komari; that he could get damages at law from the sheriff for having detained him in the police station without putting a charge against him.
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The fine exhibition of friendliness between Consul Salto and the Japanese Reform Association, which was accusing him of all sorts of derelictions a year ago shows how good a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

It is said that Lincoln, Nebraska, which never before has been proud of William Jennings Bryan, is beginning to sit up and take notice, now that it has found out that the world looks on him as something out of the usual.

Amidst all the indignation expressed because Chinese coolies are to dig the Panama canal, we can at least extract this satisfaction that the canal is to be dug.

PROGRESSIVE.
"Why have you changed your opinion in that matter?"
"My dear sir" answered Senator Borah, "I am far too progressive in my ideas to hold on to an out-of-date opinion when I find I can replace it with one that is modern, convenient and profitable."